

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

- 1-44. (Cancelled).
45. (Previously presented) An apparatus for the simultaneous transfer of liquid analytes, comprising:
a plurality of capillary tubes arranged in a holder device, wherein the liquid analytes are taken up by the plurality of capillary tubes by capillary action;
a housing adapted to receive said plurality of capillary tubes; and
means to apply a stimulus to effect transfer of liquid analytes from the capillary tubes to at least one solid support.
46. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the capillary tubes are arranged in the holder device in an array.
47. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 46, wherein said array is a rectangular array.
48. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 46, wherein said array is a concentric array.
49. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 46, wherein said array is a spiral array.
50. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 46, whereby the capillary tubes are parallel aligned with respect to each other.
51. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 45, whereby the ends of the capillary tubes define a flat surface.
52. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the number of the capillary tubes is 96.
53. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the means to apply a stimulus comprises a pressure change using a piezo-electric element.

54. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the housing is connected to an air pump, which is adapted to create a pressure difference relative to the exterior of the housing to force the liquid analytes out of the capillary tubes.

55. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the means to apply a stimulus provokes high frequency conditions to break a liquid column into droplets.

56. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 55, wherein the droplets of each transferred liquid analyte onto the support have a size of nanolitre or picolitre.

57. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the open ends of the capillary tubes are able to dispense the liquid analytes to the solid support with or without direct contact between the capillary tube and the solid support.

58. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 45, further comprising at least one solid support for the acceptance of liquid analytes.

59. (Previously presented) A holder device suitable for use in the apparatus according to claim 45, comprising a plurality of capillary tubes mounted in a mounting element, said mounting element maintaining the capillary tubes in a desired relationship relative to each other.

60. (Previously presented) The holder device according to claim 59, wherein the capillary tubes are arranged in an array.

61. (Previously presented) The holder device according to claim 59, whereby the capillary tubes are parallel aligned with respect to each other.

62. (Previously presented) The holder device according to claim 59, whereby the ends of the capillary tubes define a flat surface.

63. (Previously presented) The holder device according to claim 59, wherein the number of the capillary tubes is 96.

64. (Previously presented) The holder device according to claim 59, wherein the mounting element comprises one or two plates.

65. (Previously presented) The holder device according to claim 59, whereby the distance of the capillary tubes in an array is variable.

66. (Previously presented) A process for adapting the distance between the capillary tubes in an array from which liquid analytes are able to be simultaneously transferred to a solid support such that the transferred liquid analytes remain isolated from one another, comprising:

- i) filling the capillary tubes,
- ii) transferring the filled capillary tubes to a screw or worm device having a thread with a varying pitch, and
- iii) turning said device thereby varying the spacing between the capillary tubes.

67. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 66, wherein the distance between the capillary tubes is varied to meet a specific requirement such as a distance of 1 mm, 1.414 mm, 2 mm, 2.236 mm, 3 mm, or 3.623 mm.

68. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 66 further comprising discharging the capillary tubes from the device onto a tape having an adhesive layer.

69. (New) An apparatus comprising: a) an array of capillary tubes from which analytes are simultaneously released to a surface of a support, said support being movable relative to the array and b) a housing adapted to receive the array, said housing connected to an air pump capable of expelling analytes from their respective capillary tubes onto the support by means of a pressure change.

70. (New) An apparatus according to claim 69, wherein the analytes are in liquid form.